

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of improving mucus clearance comprising administering to the respiratory tract of a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a polysaccharide, wherein the polysaccharide is an oligomer comprising glucose, galactose, fucose, glucosamine, or galactosamine ~~having about the same number of hydrogen bonding sites as dextran.~~

14. (Cancel) A method of improving mucus clearance comprising administering to the respiratory tract of a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a polysaccharide having sugar moieties that stereochemically complement the oligosaccharide moieties native to the respiratory tract mucins.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13~~14~~, wherein the polysaccharide is an oligomer comprising glucose and is dextran ~~comprises oligomers of galactose and fucose and the amino sugars glucosamine or galactosamine.~~

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the polysaccharide is administered in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the diluent is sodium chloride or Ringer solution.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the polysaccharide is administered to the respiratory tract topically or by aerosol.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the polysaccharide is present in the respiratory secretion at a concentration of about 4 mg/ml to about 40 mg/ml.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 14, wherein the polysaccharide is administered in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the diluent is sodium chloride or Ringer solution.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 14, wherein the polysaccharide is administered to the respiratory tract topically or by aerosol.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 14, wherein the polysaccharide is present in the respiratory secretion at a concentration of about 4 mg/ml to about 40 mg/ml.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of treating lung disease associated with impaired mucus clearance comprising administering to the respiratory tract of a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a polysaccharide, wherein the polysaccharide is an oligomer comprising glucose, galactose, fucose, glucosamine, or galactosamine ~~having about the same number of hydrogen bonding sites as dextran.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the lung disease is cystic fibrosis, chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis or bronchial asthma.

26. (Cancel) A method of treating lung disease associated with impaired mucus clearance comprising administering to the respiratory tract of a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a polysaccharide having sugar

moieties that stereochemically complement the oligosaccharide moieties native to the respiratory tract mucins in the manufacture of a medicament to improve mucus clearance.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 26, wherein the polysaccharide is an oligomer comprising glucose and is dextran ~~comprises oligomers of galactose and fucose and the amino sugars glucosamine and galactosamine.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 26, wherein the lung disease is cystic fibrosis, chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis or bronchial asthma.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of improving mucus clearability in a patient having cystic fibrosis comprising administering to the respiratory tract of a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a polysaccharide, wherein the polysaccharide is an oligomer comprising glucose, galactose, fucose, glucosamine, or galactosamine ~~having about the same number of hydrogen bonding sites as dextran.~~

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of assessing liquification of secretions of said patient following treatment.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of assessing viscosity and elasticity of sputum of said patient following the treatment.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the polysaccharide is present in the respiratory secretion at a concentration of about 4 mg/ml to about 40 mg/ml.

33. (Cancel) A method of improving mucus clearability in a patient having cystic fibrosis comprising administering to the respiratory tract of a patient in need of

such treatment an effective amount of a polysaccharide having sugar moieties that stereochemically complement the oligosaccharide moieties native to the respiratory tract mucins in the manufacture of a medicament to improve mucus clearance.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 ~~33~~, wherein the polysaccharide is an oligomer comprising glucose and is dextran ~~comprises oligomers of galactose and fucose and the amino sugars glucosamine and galactosamine.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 ~~33~~, further comprising the step of assessing liquification of secretions of said patient following treatment.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 ~~33~~, further comprising the step of assessing viscosity and elasticity of sputum of said patient following the treatment.

37. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34 ~~33~~, wherein the polysaccharide is present in the respiratory secretion at a concentration of about 4 mg/ml to about 40 mg/ml.